AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled).

25. (New) A positional information management system for a hotel comprising:

a tag attached to an article in the hotel and having a tag integrated circuit (IC) storing a tag identification (ID);

a plurality of detectors located at respective detector locations in the hotel, each detector having a respective detector ID, each detector for detecting the tag ID from the tag IC, and for transmitting the tag ID that is detected and the detector ID;

a computer network including and providing communication between

a hotel server for managing hotel tasks and includes a unit for recording relationships between a customer, a house card issued to the customer for payment for hotel services, and the tag ID of a tag attached to an article belonging to the customer,

a house card server for account management when a customer employs a house card, issued to and indentifying the customer, in payment for a hotel service, and for authenticating a house card that has been issued to a customer,

a plurality of card terminals located at respective terminal locations in the hotel for reading a house card identifying the customer to whom the house card has been issued, for transacting payment for hotel services through the house card read and authenticated by the house card server, and for input of a tag ID, and

a positional information management server for receiving, recording, managing, and supplying the tag ID detected and the detector ID of the detector

detecting the tag ID, from each of the plurality of detectors, as pairs of the tag ID detected and the detector ID, and time at which the respective detector detected the tag ID, and for specifying position of the article based upon detection of the tag ID and the detector ID of the detector detecting the tag ID, wherein the positional information management server includes a unit for searching for the position of the article in response to reading of a house card by one of the card terminals, authentication of the house card by the hotel server, and input to the card terminal of the tag ID associated with the house card read, and a unit for sending results of the searching to the card terminal reading the house card.

26. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein the tag comprises a detachable sticker.

27. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein the positional information management server includes a unit for producing a movement history of the article from positions of the article based on the detector IDs of the detectors that have detected the tag ID, and the time of detection.

28. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein
each of the detectors has a respective specific range in which the detector detects the tag ID, and
the positional information management system detects movement of the article based on the specific ranges and the tag ID detected in the respective specific ranges.

29. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 25, wherein the positional information management server includes a unit for determining an area defined by at least one of the detectors and for determining

whether the article is in the area, based on the detector ID and the tag IDs detected in the area.

30. (New) The positional information management system according to Claim 29, wherein the positional information management server includes a unit for defining the area as a restricted area and for managing security by generating an alarm or by setting a flag when the article is in the restricted area.

31. (New) The positional information management system according to claim 25 wherein the unit for recording records relationship between name of the customer to whom a house card has been issued and the tag ID of the article belonging to the customer and the unit for searching for the position of the article searches in response to input of the name of the customer into the card terminal.